



Introduced Version

HOUSE RESOLUTION No. ____

Introduced by: Smith V

A HOUSE RESOLUTION recognizing Young Black Males Legislative Day on March 31, 2015.

Whereas, March 31 marked the first annual Young Black Males Legislative Day when 250 students from around the state gathered at the Statehouse to show that they can have a voice in their government and show the Indiana General Assembly that Young Black Lives Matter;

Whereas, Black males are six times more likely to be incarcerated than their white male counterparts. Blacks make up 9.5 percent of the population in Indiana but 37 percent of the inmates in the Indiana Department of Correction in 2012. African-American males comprise over 75 percent of the defendants in Indianapolis;

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Whereas, Indiana's percentage of black male students who experience out-of-school suspensions was 27 percent and was tied for the second highest percentage among all states. In Marion County, the number of out-of-school suspensions represented more than 60 percent of the student population at various schools. "Attendance" was the fifth most common reason for students being suspended. The high school graduation rate for African-American males is 38 percent while the graduation rate for white males is 70 percent; and

Whereas, African-American young males are predominately caught in a cycle of poverty and low expectations, which needs to be recognized. Rectifying this cycle must be prioritized at all levels of government. We must invest in the future of these young men. It is time to make it clear that Black Male Lives Matter: Therefore,

*Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the
General Assembly of the State of Indiana:*

- 1 SECTION 1. That the Indiana House of Representatives does hereby
2 mark Young Black Males Legislative Day on March 31, 2015.

